

What is claimed is:

1. A tape printing apparatus comprising:
first tape cartridge-mounting means for mounting a first tape cartridge accommodating a first tape;
desired configuration information input means for inputting desired configuration information; and
to-be-detected image-printing means for printing a to-be-detected image representative of said desired configuration information on said first tape such that said to-be-detected image can be detected by predetermined detection means, thereby enabling production of a detection label for being labeled on an arbitrary tape cartridge, with said to-be-detected image printed on said detection label.
2. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said desired configuration information contains information of designation of at least one of a typeface, a decoration, and a color, for use in printing.
3. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said to-be-detected image is an image of a pattern formed by patterning said desired configuration information in a predetermined format.
4. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said pattern represents a code formed by encoding said desired configuration information.
5. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said code is a binary code.
6. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said pattern image is a unicolor pattern image that represents said code in a single color.
7. A tape cartridge labeled with a detection label printed with a to-be-detected image representative of desired configuration information for use in printing.

8. A tape cartridge according to claim 7, wherein said detection label is formed by cutting off a first tape, the tape cartridge accommodating a second tape.

9. A tape cartridge according to claim 8, wherein said to-be-detected image is printed on said first tape by using a tape printing apparatus comprising:

first tape cartridge mounting means for mounting a first tape cartridge accommodating said first tape;

desired configuration information input means for inputting said desired configuration information; and

to-be-detected image-printing means for printing said to-be-detected image representative of said desired configuration information on said first tape such that said to-be-detected image can be detected by predetermined detection means.

10. A tape cartridge according to claim 9, which accommodates said first tape as said second tape, and can be mounted in said tape printing apparatus as said first tape cartridge.

11. A tape printing apparatus comprising:

tape cartridge-mounting means for mounting a tape cartridge labeled with a detection label formed by cutting off a first tape printed with a to-be-detected image representative of desired configuration information for use in printing;

detection means for detecting said to-be-detected image which is printed on said detection label labeled on said tape cartridge; and

image-printing means for printing an image on said second tape based on said desired configuration information represented by said to-be-detected image.

12. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 11, further including character string input means for inputting

a character string having at least one character arranged therein,

wherein said desired configuration information represented by said to-be-detected image includes information concerning printing of the input character string, and

wherein said image printing means prints said print image based on the input character string according to said desired configuration information.

13. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said print image is an image identical to said to-be-detected image.

14. A label-producing method comprising the steps of:

mounting a first tape cartridge accommodating a first tape in a first tape printing apparatus;

inputting desired configuration information to said first tape printing apparatus;

printing a to-be-detected image representative of said desired configuration information on said first tape by using said first tape printing apparatus such that said to-be-detected image can be detected by predetermined detection means;

producing a detection label by cutting off a portion including said to-be-detected image from said first tape;

labeling said detection label on a second tape cartridge accommodating a second tape;

mounting said second tape cartridge in a second tape printing apparatus including said predetermined detection means;

detecting said to-be-detected image which is printed on said detection label labeled on said second tape cartridge, by said predetermined detection means of said second tape

printing apparatus;

printing a print image on said second tape dispensed from said second tape cartridge based on said desired configuration information represented by said to-be-detected image; and

producing a print image label by cutting off a portion including said print image from said second tape.

15. A label-producing method according to claim 14, wherein said first tape printing apparatus and said second tape printing apparatus are an identical tape printing apparatus.

16. A label-producing method according to claim 14, wherein said first tape cartridge and said second tape cartridge are an identical tape cartridge.

17. A label-producing method according to claim 14, wherein said desired configuration information contains information of designation of at least one of a typeface, a decoration, and a color, for use in printing.

18. A label-producing method according to claim 14, wherein said to-be-detected image is an image of a pattern formed by patterning said desired configuration information in a predetermined format.

19. A label-producing method according to claim 18, wherein said pattern represents a code formed by encoding said desired configuration information.

20. A label-producing method according to claim 19, wherein said code is a binary code.

21. A label-producing method according to claim 19, wherein said pattern image is a unicolor pattern image that represents said code in a single color.

22. A label-producing method according to claim 14, further including the step of inputting a character string having at least one character arranged therein, to said

second tape printing apparatus, and

wherein said desired configuration information represented by said to-be-detected image contains information concerning printing of the input character string, and

wherein said print image is printed according to said desired configuration information based on the input character string.

23. A label-producing method according to claim 14, wherein said image is a second to-be-detected image which is an image identical to said to-be-detected image.

24. A label-producing method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

labeling a second detection label to a third tape cartridge accommodating a third tape, said second detection label being a print image label produced by cutting off a portion including said second to-be-detected image which is printed on said second tape by said second tape printing apparatus, from said second tape;

mounting said third tape cartridge in a third tape printing apparatus including said predetermined detection means;

detecting said second to-be-detected image which is printed on said second detection label labeled on said third tape cartridge, by using said predetermined detection means of said third tape printing apparatus;

printing a second print image which is different from said second to-be-detected image, on said third tape dispensed from said third tape cartridge, based on said desired configuration information represented by said second to-be-detected image; and

producing a second print image label by cutting off a portion including said second print image from said third

tape.

25. A label-producing method according to claim 24, further including the step of inputting a character string having at least one character arranged therein, to said third tape printing apparatus,

wherein said desired configuration information represented by said second to-be-detected image contains information concerning printing of the input character string, and

wherein said second print image is printed according to said desired configuration information based on the input character string.

26. A label-producing method according to claim 24, wherein said second tape printing apparatus and said third tape printing apparatus are an identical printing apparatus.

27. A tape cartridge bearing a to-be-detected image in a manner such that said to-be-detected image can be detected by a predetermined detection means,

wherein said to-be-detected image is a character string information image that represents character string information for printing an image of a fixed-form character string having at least one character arranged therein.

28. A tape cartridge according to claim 27, wherein said to-be-detected image is said image of said fixed-form character string.

29. A tape cartridge according to claim 27, wherein said to-be-detected image is a designation image representative of designation of selection of one of registered fixed-form character string images.

30. A tape cartridge according to claim 29, wherein said to-be-detected image is an image of a pattern which is formed by patterning said designation in a predetermined format.

31. A tape cartridge according to claim 30, wherein said pattern represents a code formed by encoding information of said designation.

32. A tape cartridge according to claim 31, wherein said code is a binary code.

33. A tape cartridge according to claim 31, wherein said pattern image is a unicolor pattern image that represents said code in a single color.

34. A tape cartridge according to claim 27, wherein said to-be-detected image is printed or formed on a surface of a member attached to a cartridge casing.

35. A tape cartridge according to claim 34, wherein said member attached to said cartridge casing is a label affixed to a surface of said cartridge casing.

36. A tape cartridge according to claim 34, wherein said member attached to said cartridge casing is a plate attached to a surface of said cartridge casing.

37. A tape cartridge according to claim 27, wherein said to-be-detected image is an image printed or formed on a surface of said cartridge casing.

38. A tape printing apparatus comprising:

tape cartridge-mounting means for mounting a tape cartridge;

detection means for detecting a to-be-detected image that said tape cartridge bears; and

character string image-printing means for printing a fixed-form character string image on a tape dispensed from said tape cartridge, based on character string information represented by said to-be-detected image.

39. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 38, further including tape take-up means for taking up a tape printed with said fixed-form character string image.

40. A tape printing apparatus according to claim 38,

further including tape cutter means for cutting off a portion printed with said fixed-form character string image from said tape.

41. A tape printing method comprising the steps of:
 - mounting a tape cartridge;
 - detecting a to-be-detected image that said tape cartridge bears; and
 - printing a fixed-form character string image based on character string information represented by said to-be-detected image.

42. A tape printing method according to claim 41, further including the step of taking up a tape printed with said fixed-form character string image.

43. A label-producing method comprising the steps of:

- mounting a tape cartridge;
 - detecting a to-be-detected image that said tape cartridge bears;
 - printing a fixed-form character string image based on character string information represented by said to-be-detected image;
 - taking up a tape printed with said fixed-form character string image; and
 - cutting off a portion printed with said fixed-form character string image from said tape.